



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-47

Subject: Bunks - Amtrak Series 32000 Sleeper Cars

From: Edward R. English  
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators,  
Motive Power & Equipment Specialists and Inspectors

It has been brought to our attention that some Amtrak sleeper car bunks (32000 series), may "drop down" without warning, during adjustment or movement, due to defective securement straps. Some of these cars are equipped with a counter balance system to eliminate this hazard, but several cars with this system have been found defective. Amtrak has advised they will address this problem.

While performing inspections on Amtrak, MP&E inspectors (when possible) should inspect the operation of the bunks. If defects in the bunk operation is identified, local Amtrak supervision should be promptly notified for corrective action.

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